

Joseph Apra House
River Street Historic District
83 N. River Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2376

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43-SANJOS
41-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

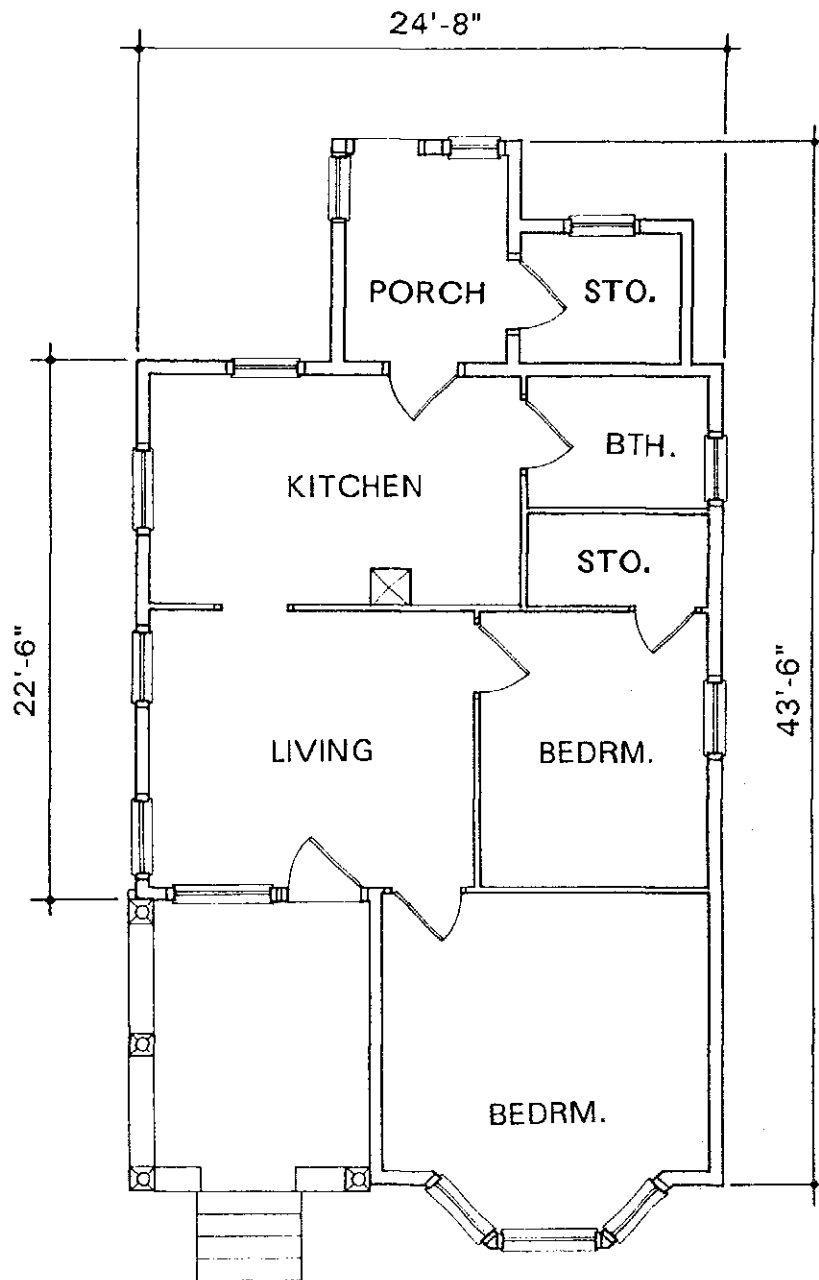
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Joseph Apra House

HABS No. CA-2376

- Location:** 83 North River Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, Santa Clara County, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597660-4132340
- Significance:** The Joseph Apra House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth century and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description:** The Joseph Apra House is a single story wood framed residence with a gabled roof hidden behind a "false-front" parapet. The front facade contains an inset porch on the southern half and a three-sided canted bay window on the northern half. The center bay window contains a transom, and the sides are the typical one over one double hung variety. It is sided in channel rustic siding and roofed with composition shingle. The plan is similar to other Queen Anne cottages in the district but the exterior contains Italianate features such as a bracketed cornice on the false front and detailed trim around the circular (bulls-eye) attic vent. The main portion of this small cottage contains a kitchen and a bathroom in the rear, two rooms in the center, and a large room with a bay window in the front. The front room may either have been a living room or a bedroom, and the room adjacent to the kitchen may have been either a dining area or a living room. Two shed additions sit at the rear of the house and are currently used as storage.
- History:** The house was constructed between 1884 and 1891 and one of its original owners (1913) was Giuseppe Apra, a plumber, and his wife Angelina. Giuseppe later became a machinist for the Artanta & Co. automotive repair shop, and he and his wife anglicized their names to Joseph and Angeline Apra. The Apras moved out in 1920 and the house was then owned by Nellie McKean, who occupied it with her husband John, a restaurateur. The house was later occupied from 1931 to 1942 by Norman Cowley, a laborer, and his wife Grace. From 1945 up through the 1950s, the house was occupied by Charles Roberts, a brakeman, and his wife Mary.
- Sources:** California Historic Resources Inventory Form,
prepared by Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose 1924 Block Map.
- Historian:** Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1' - 0"